

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 IO-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 IGA-01

OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 /082 W

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O R 141516Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9580

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 5270

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, TU, US, GR

SUBJECT: FURTHER GREEK REACTION TO POSSIBILITY OF U.S.

RESUMING MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY

REF: ATHENS 5232

1. WEEKEND NEWSPAPERS CONTINUED TO DEVOTE PRIME SPACE
TO HIRC APPROVAL OF H.R. 8454 (REFTEL) WITH HEADLINES
FOCUSING ON APPROVAL AS A VICTORY FOR "THE PRESIDENT,
CIA, AND THE PENTAGON".

2. TO VIMA AND KATHIMERINI CARRIED OPINION COLUMNS ON
JULY 13 WHICH BLASTED THE LIKELIHOOD OF THE RESUMPTION
OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY AS COMING ABOUT THROUGH
PRESSURES FROM THE INDUSTRIAL-MILITARY COMPLEX AND
DIRECTLY FROM THE PENTAGON. THE SUBJECT WAS MUTED
IN JULY 14 AFTERNOON NEWSPAPERS (NO MONDAY MORNING
NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED) EXCEPT FOR A SMALL COLUMN IN
VRADYNI WHICH DESCRIBED "TURKISH BLACKMAIL" OF U.S. IN
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THIS CONNECTIONS.

3. NO OFFICIAL STATEMENT HAS BEEN MADE ON THE REPORT THAT U.S. OFFICIALS ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE SAID THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAS NO OBJECTION TO THE RESUMPTION OF AID TO TURKEY(REFTEL).

4. COMMENT: AS A RESULT OF AN EXCHANGE OF IMMEDIATE TELEGRAMS WITH THE DEPARTMENT LAST FRIDAY NIGHT AND SATURDAY MORNING (NOTAL), WE WERE ABLE TO HEAD OFF A GREEK GOVERNMENT STATEMENT IN THE NICK OF TIME. ON RECEIPT OF GUIDANCE AND INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT SATURDAY MORNING, THE AMBASSADOR WAS ABLE TO GET FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS OUT OF HIS REGULAR SATURDAY MORNING BACKGROUNDER FOR JOURNALISTS AND CLEAR UP A MISUNDERSTANDING. EVEN SO, BITSIOS TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THIS AFTERNOON THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT REMAINS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS MATTER AND THAT THE GREEK AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED OVER THE WEEK-END TO TAKE UP THE MATTER WITH THE DEPARTMENT, IF POSSIBLE WITH UNDER SECRETARY SISCO.

KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ARMS EMBARGO
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUL 1975
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS05270
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750242-0894
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750757/aaaabynv.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ATHENS 5232
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <29 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER GREEK REACTION TO POSSIBILITY OF U.S. RESUMING MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY
TAGS: MASS, TU, US, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006